

## Liberated through Marriage # 21

Romans 7: 1-6

As we have moved through the book of Romans, Paul has dealt extensively with the superiority of grace over law. Many in his day continued to seek salvation through adherence to the law and the works of the flesh. Our text today continues to address this struggle.

The modern church doesn't struggle with the Mosaic Law as the early Jews did, but many continue to teach a works based salvation. Few are willing to embrace grace through faith in the Lord Jesus as the sole element necessary for salvation. Paul's teaching applies to anything we seek other than the grace of God received through faith in Christ for salvation.

Our last study dealt with the believer being released from the bondage of sin and Satan as they are saved in Christ, becoming a servant to Him. We have died to the old master of sin and are become alive to our new Master: Christ. Continuing that line of thought, Paul now uses the analogy of marriage to express our new relationship with Christ in salvation. Once we were married to sin and condemnation, determined by the law. Now we are married to Christ the Lord, provided by grace. I want to consider the [lessons](#) Paul gives as we think on: [Liberated through Marriage](#).

**I. The Certainty** (1) – [Know ye not, brethren, \(for I speak to them that know the law,\) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?](#) Here Paul shares a simple, but true statement. While men are living they are bound by the laws that govern them. This truth is very broad in its application. The Jews, to whom Paul was mainly addressing, were under the authority of Roman law since they lived in an area controlled by Rome. The Jews also continued to adhere to the Mosaic Law, given of God. The same is true in our lives as well. While we live we are bound by the laws of the land. We may not agree with every law our local, state, and national governments pass, but we are required to live in accordance with the laws that govern us.

- This remains true as long as one lives, but at the moment of death, we are no longer bound by the laws of the state. A criminal may be convicted of a crime and forced to face the punishment received for his behavior. As long as he lives, with the exception of fulfilling his time, he remains bound by the law that incarcerated him. However, if he dies, he is no longer bound by the law.
- That is simple enough to understand in a physical sense, but it also applies spiritually. Paul is emphasizing the spiritual state more than the natural. As long as a man lives in his natural state, living in sin and apart from God, he remains under the dominion and condemnation of the law. At the moment the natural man dies, and he is resurrected a new man in Christ, he is no longer bound by the law. He has died to the old man of sin, and thus died to the law.

**II. The Comparison** (2-3) – For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband. <sup>[3]</sup> So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Paul now uses an analogy that would have been familiar to all the Jews. The Mosaic Law bound a woman to her husband in marriage as long as the husband lived. She may choose to leave her husband, but she is still bound to him by the law. If she leaves her husband for another man, she is guilty of adultery according to the law of God. She may act in a manner that portrays her release, but she remains bound to her husband in marriage. However, if her husband dies, she is at liberty to marry another.

- Clearly there is a practical application in the words of Paul, but his intent is not to teach a lesson on physical marriage and its responsibilities. He is using marriage to illustrate a great spiritual truth. Prior to Christ, while living in sin, we all were bound to the law just as a wife is bound to her husband in marriage. The only means of escape from the confines of the law is to be dead. Paul is teaching we must die to ourselves, to the lusts of the flesh, if we are to be released from the binding agreement of the law.

**III. The Consolation** (4-5) – In these verses Paul provides consolation to every believer as he further explains how the law has no bearing on the Gospel and our freedom in Christ. Notice:

**A. Our Redemption** (4a) – *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ*; He reminds us that we have become dead to the law by being placed in the body of Christ. While in sin apart from Christ, we were condemned by the law. Just as a woman is bound to her husband, we had no means of escape. As Christ died for our sin, He provided the means of escape. In Him we died unto the law and are now released from its condemnation. *Rom.6:6 – Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

- While being bound to the law, we were guilty before God. The law declared our guilt and cried out for our punishment. Christ fully satisfied the righteous demands of God as He offered Himself as the atonement for sin. Being dead to sin, risen in Christ, we have been released from the condemnation of the law!

**B. Our Relationship** (4b) – *that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead.* When we died unto sin and the law, we were released from the law. At that moment we were married to another, the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Marriage brings about changes and new relationships. While we were in sin, we were bound by the law. There was no hope of escape and our lives were lived in misery and despair. Just as a wife who is married to a domineering husband, we could never satisfy the law. Regardless of our efforts, we always came up short of pleasing the law and the relationship never enjoyed peace and harmony. The law never offered strength or compassion. It continually pointed out our flaws and demanded justice. It was a terrible relationship filled with pain and suffering.
- In Christ all that changed. Being married to Christ offers new life and a new perspective. Rather than condemnation and guilt, He declares His love and acceptance. He knew who we were and yet He loved us anyway. Rather than holding impossible demands over our heads, He offers peace and security. Instead of reminding us of our past, He proclaims our glorious future. He reminds us of the sacrifice He made and the great debt He paid. We have been cleansed in His blood and are accepted of the Father because of Him. We now enjoy a loving relationship with Christ our Lord. This relationship is possible because of His great love and provision!

**C. Our Righteousness** (4c-5) – [that we should bring forth fruit unto God.](#) <sup>[5]</sup> [For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.](#) Through our redemption in Christ and new relationship with Him we are delivered from the fruits of deadness and made alive in Him. Our lives are now lived in light of His righteousness and we bring forth fruit unto God for His glory.

- A faithful and loving wife desires to bring honor to her husband. She wants to do nothing to bring reproach upon his name or that of the family. This must be the desire of believers as well. We must seek to honor our Lord and bring glory to His great name. He is worthy of our love and obedience. [Phil.1:11 – Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.](#) [Rom.6:22 – But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.](#)

**IV. The Confirmation** (6) – [But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not \*in\* the oldness of the letter.](#) We are reminded of the redemption received in Christ. We have been delivered from the law and the unattainable demands it brings. We are no longer bound in guilt and condemnation. We are no longer viewed as unrighteous before God without hope.

- Our lives are to be lived in newness of the spirit, serving our new Husband with grace and commitment. This new glorious relationship provides all we need to serve Christ and honor Him. Our lives are not bound by the dictates of the law, but liberated through grace. The old desires and hindrances have been replaced with new hope and strength in the Lord.

**Conclusion:** I rejoice to be freed from the condemnation of the law. I had no way of meeting the righteous demands of God, but Christ made the way for me to be redeemed from sin and reconciled to God. In Him I am declared righteous. Although I am no longer condemned by the law, I desire to seek the high standard of God to honor my Lord. He is worthy of my service and devotion.

This has been a different lesson than others we have considered, but it reveals a simple and profound truth. Each of us is married to one or the other: the law or Christ. We either remain in bondage to the law or we have been liberated through marriage in Christ. It is impossible to satisfy the righteous demands of God by trying to keep the law. You can be set free in Christ if you will look to Him by faith. He fully satisfied God's righteous demands and He wants to offer you acceptance through salvation. If you are unsaved, come to Jesus!